FILE NO.PI/102/14/68

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(Pak-I Registry)

SUBJECT

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION REGARDING NETAJI'S SECRET JOURNEY FROM CALCUTTA TO EURORE IN 1941.

Previous Reference

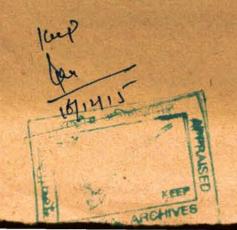
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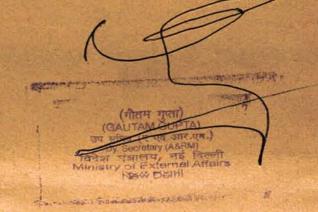
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PI/102/14/68 M/Ext. Affairs (Pale-I Reg.)

SECRET

Prime Minister's Secretariat

S. No I (FR)

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JS(Pak) may kindly/the letter PM has received from Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta. Could he kindly advise PM in the matter?

(K. Natwar Singh)
23- 4- 1968

JS(Pak) - Shri P.R.S. Mani.

Ministry of External Affairs (Pakistan Division)

In the present context of relations between India and Pakistan, it is not likely that the Pakistan Government will render cooperation in the matter of providing information to collect and verify facts regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. It is possible that a number of persons in Pakistan, particularly ex-INA personnel, will be willing to assist the Netaji Research Bureau in this matter.

- 2. It is, therefore, essential to consult our High Commissioner in this matter and request him to take soundings, if considered necessary, of the Information Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Altaf Gauhar. A letter is being addressed to High Commissioner Sen accordingly.
- 3. A brief draft reply to Dr. Bose is also submitted for Prime Minister's approval.

Joint Secretary (Pak)
25.4.1968.

MEA.0.0. No: 2226/35 (PAN)/68, dt. v6/4/68.

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From the Executive Director NETAJI RESEARCH BUREAU AN INSTITUTE OF BISTORY AND POLITICS NETAJI BHAWAN 38/2, LALA LAJPAT RAI ROAD, CALCUTTA 20 No.6/874/68 April 19, 1968. Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister's House, New Delhi.

Dear Shrimati Gandhi, For quite some time now we have been trying to collect and verify facts regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. We have now reached a stage when we need to record statements of a number of persons in Pakistan. I had tried some time ago to contact one very important person in this connection through usual correspondence. But no response was forthcoming. It is clear that we must have the cooperation of the Government of Pakistan in the matter. I expect they will be willing to cooperate in a purely historical work of this kind. My purpose in writing to you to seek your advice as to how the approach to the Pakistan Government should be made. You may prefer to take the matter up with the Government of Pakistan on Governmental level. If not, we shall do as advised. The work may make it necessary for one or two of us to visit West Pakistan for a limited period. I shall be grateful for an early reply. With kindest regards, Yours sincerely, Sd/-Dr. Sisir K. Bose

2024-05 18 mothe P.R.S. Mani Joint Secretary (Pak)

No. 2226 - JS(Pak)/68,

April 26, 1968.

My dear High Commissioner,

21/4

I enclose copy of a letter received by Prime Minister from Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta.

In the present context of relations, the Pakistan Government may not render cooperation in the matter of providing information to collect and verify facts regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. It is possible that a number of persons in Pakistan particularly ex-INA personnel will be willing to assist the Netaji Research Bureau in this matter.

3. I shall be grateful if you could kindly informally approach Mr. Altaf Gauhar, Information Secretary and let us know.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(P.A.S. Mani)

Shri S. Sen, High Commissioner of India in Pakistan, Islamabad.

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NETAJI RESEARCH BUREAU AN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND POLITICS NETAJI BHAWAN

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Dr. Sisir K.Bose

Prime Mini-ster's Secretariat

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Sd/-(K. Natwar Singh) 23-4-1968

JS(Pak) - Shri P.R.S. Mani

Ministry of External Affairs (Pakistan Division)

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Sd/-P.R.S. Mani Joint Secretary (Pak) 25-4-1968

Dir.(Spl), Shri K. Natwar Singh M.E.A. u.o.No.2226-JS(Pak)/68, dt. 26/4/68

P.R.S. Mani Joint Secretary (Pak) No.2529-JS(Pak)/68. May 10, 1968. Dear Dr. Bose, Kindly refer to your letter No.6/874/68, dated April 19, 1968 to the Prime Minister on the subject of collection of information regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. 2. In normal times, one could expect that the Pakistan Government will render all cooperation in this matter but in the present circumstances, it seems advisable to first consult our High Commissioner who is being approached in the matter by us. A reply will be sent to you as soon as we hear from our High Commissioner. Yours sincerely, (P.R.3. Mani) Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau, Netaji Bhawan, 38/2, Lala Lajpat Rai Road, Calcutta-20. 02/102/m/68

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HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA

ISIAMABAD

June 2, 1968.

No. ISL/HC- 226/68

Dear Narendra Lough,

Please refer to Mani's letter No.2226-JS (Pak)/ 68 of April 26, 1968. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Altaf Gauhar and he was of the view that it would be difficult to find the right people to help compiling material for Netaji Research Bureau. However, he kindly agreed to consult Chaudhary, Public Relations Officer, Pakistan Embassy at Cairo, who is supposed to know all about it.

S. H. (4)

Secondly, Mr. Altaf Gauhar advised that while there was no objection to this kind of scientific research being undertaken with Pakistan's cooperation, no publicity should be given to this matter simply because Netaji's background etc. has many political 'implications which are not liked by several political elements. It is best, therefore, not to give any publicity to such help as selected Pakistanis may give in this matter, as otherwise a political controversy may well start on it.

I am reminding Mr. Altaf Gauhar about his kind offer to help, and shall write to you again after he has made the necessary enquiries. I shall also mention this matter quietly to the Foreign Office as indeed was suggested by Gauhar himself.

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Shri Narendra Singh, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. 5. No 15)

No.PI/102/14/68, June 10, 1968.

OSD(K)

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your letter No.ISL/HC-236/63, dated June 2, 1968.

2. We shall await further information and keep quiet on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Narendra Singh)

Shri S. Sen, High Commissioner of India, Islamabad.